Please amend Claims 1, 8, 10, 11 and 16 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a corrector, arranged to apply, to image data stored in a <u>band memory or a block memory assigned to a</u> memory area, a first correction according to a feature amount of the entire image data, and a second correction which is different from the first correction;

a processor, arranged to apply an image process required to print on a print medium to the image data output from said corrector; and

a recorder, arranged to print an image on the print medium based on the image data output from said processor,

wherein said corrector acquires the feature amount from data of a representative value group of the image data stored in the memory area, and then releases the memory area storing the representative value group <u>to reassign the released memory area to the band memory or the block memory</u>, before execution of the first correction and before execution of the second correction is completed for the entire image data.

2. and 3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the representative value group includes at least one of pixel values regularly selected from the image data, pixel values randomly selected from the image data, pixel values of reduced-scale image data of the image data, and DC component values of a plurality of pixels of the image data.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said corrector further acquires the feature amount from data appended to the image data stored in the memory area.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the data appended to the image data includes at least one of the feature amount and thumbnail image of the image data.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the feature amount includes at least one of histograms associated with some colors, information associated with some colors that represents a highlight part, information associated with some colors that represents a shadow part, and information associated with hue and saturation in the entire image data or partial data stored in the memory area.

8. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

applying, to image data stored in <u>a band memory or a block memory assigned to a</u> [[the]] memory area, a first correction according to a feature amount of the entire image data, and a second correction which is different from the first correction;

applying an image process required to print on a print medium to the corrected image data;

printing an image on the print medium based on the image data subjected to the image process; and

acquiring the feature amount from data of a representative value group of the image data stored in the memory area, and then releasing the memory area storing the representative value group to reassign the released memory area to the band memory or the block memory, before execution of the first correction and before execution of the second correction is completed for the entire image data.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a computer-executable program causing a computer to perform an image processing method, the method comprising the steps of:

applying, to image data stored in a band memory or a block memory assigned to a memory area, a first correction according to a feature amount of the entire image data, and a second correction which is different from the first correction;

applying an image process required to print on a print medium to the corrected image data;

printing an image on the print medium based on the image data subjected to the image process; and

acquiring the feature amount from data of a representative value group of the image data stored in the memory area, and then releasing the memory area storing the representative value group to reassign the released memory area to the band memory or the block memory, before execution of the first correction and before execution of the second correction is completed for the entire image data.

11. (Currently amended) A printer comprising:

an interface, arranged to input at least partial image data of a selected image not from a computer but from a memory card; and

??? a processor, arranged to perform a first process for performing correction, which is based on the amount of characteristic of the selected image expressed by the input image data, on the selected image, and a second process for performing predetermined processing on the selected image, the first and second processes being applied to image data in a band unit or a block unit of the selected image using a band memory or a block memory assigned to a memory area,

wherein the amount of the characteristic is extracted from a representative value group of the input image data stored in the [[a]] memory area which is used in at least one of the first and second processes, and then the memory area storing the representative value group is released to reassign the released memory area to the band memory or the block memory, before the first and second processes are performed on image the data in the [[a]] band unit or the block unit of the selected image using a band memory or a block memory.

12. (Previously presented) The printer according to claim 11, wherein the representative value group corresponds to a reduced image of the selected image.

13. (Previously presented) The printer according to claim 11, wherein the amount of the characteristic is acquired using a histogram of the input image data.

14. (Previously presented) The printer according to claim 11, wherein the selected image has been compressed by the JPEG encoding.

15. (Previously presented) The printer according to claim 11, further comprising an operation panel which receives the selection of image stored in the memory card and a selection of image process to be applied to the selected image.

16. (Currently amended) An inkjet printer comprising:

an interface, arranged to input at least partial image data of a selected image not from a computer but from a memory card;

a processor, arranged to perform a first process for performing correction, which is based on the amount of characteristic of the selected image expressed by the input image data, on the selected image, and a second process for performing predetermined processing on the selected image, wherein the first and second processes are applied to image data in a band unit or a block unit of the selected image using a band memory or a block memory assigned to a memory area; and

a print head for inkjet printing, arranged to discharge ink from a nozzle in accordance with image data output from said processor,

wherein the amount of the characteristic is extracted from a representative value group of the input image data stored in the [[a]] memory area ~~which is used in at least one of the first and second processes~~, and then the memory area storing the representative value group is released to reassign the released memory area to the band memory or the block memory, before the first and second processes are performed on the image data in the [[a]] band unit or the block unit ~~of the selected image using a band or block memory~~.